

# WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

## One Woman Show at Artica Gallery

A stunning postcard arrived in my mailbox this week announcing Artica Gallery's first Artist's Show of the 2001 season with a reception Sunday, May 6, from 3 to 5 pm. The featured artist will be Elizabeth "Lilly" Cleveland, a painter who lives on Washington Street with her husband Mark and their two sons, Matthew and William. Lilly, who is an established watercolorist, will be showing paintings using some first time techniques, as well as a couple of oils on canvas. As her work is quite diverse, it should be fun to see what she has cooked up for us so far this century.

If you haven't seen any of Cleveland's work, I recommend taking some time out to either go to this reception where you can meet the artist, or just stop in over the month of May to Artica, which is located just off Hall's Corner (or Red Square, as an ex U.S. submariner I just met at the town pier refers to it). I have only seen a handful of her paintings to date, but these made me want to see more. You see, each of Lilly's paintings is an individual. One is not sure what she may come up with next. She paints in an impressionistic style, which can also border on the abstract. She doesn't restrict herself in regards to color, although she doesn't often go toward earth tones, instead she uses a lot of blues or will just give us black and white gesso. One of her approaches to watercolor is to use a lot of water. As she said to me, "It will lead me along the way, like a frontier." She does not sketch a picture ahead, preferring to work freehand. She may add different mediums, such as pen and ink, to a painting, but it is used as an additional element in these cases. She even does house portraits using these same varying techniques, as well as her artist license. She once painted a garden into one of her house portraits, which quite charmed her clients.



Elizabeth "Lilly" Cleveland

Lilly is quite a force in the art community, both in Duxbury and beyond. She is president of the Helen Bumpus Gallery, which features distinguished artists and is located in the main concourse of Duxbury Free Library. The current work in the Bumpus Gallery is by the president of the New England Watercolor Society, Andrew Kusmin; and if you can slip out this Thursday evening May 3, there is a reception for him from 6 to 7:30pm. In addition to the Bumpus Gallery, Lilly is a trustee for the Duxbury Art Association, which is located in the Ellison Center Complex on St. George Street. I wasn't quite sure what was going on there, as when I lived in Duxbury in the early seventies it was the Catholic Church. But apparently it now houses a music conservatory, a painting studio, a clay studio with a kiln, a printing press, as well several office and gallery spaces. They provide an on-going class schedule so one can study art and music right here in town. I think that's pretty cool. Along with this show opening at Artica, Lilly is currently showing work at Boca, a Bistro style restaurant in Pembroke, the Ellison Art Center, at the North River Art Association in Marshfield Hills and at The Corner's Gallery in the Boston Design Center in the city of the same name. The Boca show is a two-woman show featuring both Lilly and Corrina Milliken of Kingston. Often these two painters will venture out into the wilds to paint together, or gather additional painters to interpret a still life.

I can remember going to a retrospective on French impressionists at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in Manhattan, and seeing this same kind of group interaction on particular still lifes. It was fun to see how different the same thing can really be, sort of like a grown-up professional version of the old telephone game that we played in a circle as a kid, passing information around until it resembled something new and different.

Currently, Lilly is involved in a weeklong program to teach watercolor techniques to 8th graders in the Hanover Schools through a Massachusetts Cultural Grant. She is finding it gratifying, as the students are really interested and responding. She shows them her paintings and reviews particular techniques. There is nothing like seeing that light go on, when one is trying to put across new information. She hopes to dabble more in teaching in the future.

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With all her hard work in the art community, Lilly still reserves her painting as her release. This is where she goes to amuse herself, to relax, to explore, to reflect, or to be inventive. "It's not work," she told me. And what I think is a truly lovely thing is that she didn't discover her gift until seven years ago, when her mother-in-law Betty Cleveland, a portrait artist working in oils, introduced her to her first class right here in Duxbury with Katherine Smith, a well-known watercolorist. Now, both mother and daughter-in-law are currently included in an "All in the Family" art exhibit in the Bengtz and Cutler Galleries at the Ellison Center for the Arts.

The two reception dates to remember are Thursday evening, May 3, at the Bumpus Gallery for Andrew Kusmin, president of the New England Watercolor Society and, Sunday afternoon, May 6, at Artica Gallery, 22 Depot Street, where one can meet both Lilly Cleveland and her new works of art.

For more information you can contact her at [ecleveland@adelphia.net](mailto:ecleveland@adelphia.net) or call Jane at Artica, 934-0640